



Behavioral Health | Major, Minor

Behavioral Health | Certificate

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF

The Behavioral Health degree is one of the most versatile degrees found at the college or university level. It was established to provide a core of expertise for those individuals seeking administrative, counseling and casework positions in areas such as addiction studies, mental illness and child welfare. This unique yet expansive major is the outgrowth of community agencies needing to employ individuals with a broader base of expertise. This degree, with its different areas of concentration, is designed to build the professional competence needed to address today's various and complex issues.

Students who major in Behavioral Health will find their educational experience both enriching and enjoyable. Through a combination of full-time and community-based adjunct faculty, "real time" information and experience is presented to the student, allowing for lively classroom discussion and bringing to life traditional textbook material. Our faculty includes national educators and published professionals, as well as top-level administrators who are actively involved with changes occurring in behavioral healthcare. Students are able to complement their classroom education with two field placements in licensed or state-approved programs, facilities and/or agencies. Such placements give the Behavioral Health major valuable exposure to the work environment prior to graduation.

Students intending to pursue a career as a licensed professional counselor will need to meet additional graduate and licensure requirements. At Alvernia University, students intending to continue into the Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling (MACC) Program are required to take PSY 101, PSY 403 and a Statistics or Research Methods course.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

The Behavioral Health curriculum provides both theoretical and practical training for professional roles in three major areas of concentration.

- **Addiction Studies:** Alvernia's degree focusing on Addiction Studies was one of the first of its kind in the United States. Students who pursue this concentration find the subject area extremely relevant, challenging and rewarding in their quest to understand one of society's major problems.
- **Mental Health:** This concentration provides a core of expertise and experience for students who wish to find employment in mental health clinics and centers immediately after graduation. Its chemical dependency component increases graduates' job readiness.
- **Child Welfare:** This challenging yet rewarding area will provide students with the essential knowledge to address the problem of child maltreatment. Abuse and neglect investigation, in-home services, out-of-home placement, adoption and parenting education are just a few of the multiple employment opportunities that await graduates in this concentration area.

CAREER SUCCESS

Behavioral Health graduates find employment in inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, hospitals, corporate employee assistance programs, prevention and intervention centers and other social agencies. The Behavioral Health program maintains an excellent employment placement rate. The Career Development Office can provide assistance with résumé preparation, interviewing and job searches.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Addiction Counseling	Hospital Detoxification Programs
Case Management	Inpatient and Halfway House Programs
Child Welfare and Related Agencies	Methadone Centers
Community-Based Prevention/Education Programs	Prevention/Education
Drug and Alcohol Outpatient Programs	Probation/Parole

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA

Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) is the premier national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Its aim is to recognize the special achievements of adults who accomplish academic excellence while facing competing interests of home and work. For the nontraditional student, the Society stands as an inspiration for continuing scholastic growth and is a builder of pride through recognition. The Alvernia University ASL Chapter serves as a vehicle for imparting appreciation for adult students' academic achievements and contributions. To this day, Alpha Sigma Lambda is not only the oldest, but also the largest chapter-based honor society for full- and part-time students.

CERTIFICATION

All courses are approved by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB), the foremost drug and alcohol credentialing organization in Pennsylvania. Coursework from the Behavioral Health Studies program can be used to fulfill PCB requirements for certification and recertification of addiction counselors. Students from outside Pennsylvania should contact the Chemical Abuse Certification (CAC) board in their state for information about requirements and the certification process.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

BA/Behavioral Health Major (54 credits)

*Liberal Arts Core (54/55 credits)**

*General Elective requirements (as needed)***

BH Major Requirements (54 credits)

BH Core Requirements in Major (36 credits)

BH 201 Foundations of Addictions
BH 202 Origins of Mental Illness
BH 204 Theories of Counseling & Psychotherapy
BH 230 Assessment and Evaluation
BH 303 Counseling Techniques I
BH 305 Group Counseling I
BH 330 Crisis Intervention
BH Practicums
PSY 101 Introductory Psychology

Choose 4 courses within one required area of concentration (12 credits)

Addiction Studies Concentration

BH 203 Neuropharmacology
BH 220 Prevention and Intervention Services
BH 240 Addictive Behaviors
BH 304 Counseling Techniques II
BH 306 Group Counseling II
BH 400 Marriage and Family Counseling
BH 402 Management of Human Service Agencies
BH 411 Counseling Special Populations -OR-
BH 413 Special Issues Seminar
BH 414 Emotional and Behavioral Pathology

Mental Health Concentration

BH 203 Neuropharmacology
BH 240 Addictive Behaviors
BH 300 Case Management
BH 304 Counseling Techniques II

Mental Health Concentration (continued)

BH 306 Group Counseling II
BH 400 Marriage and Family Counseling
BH 402 Management of Human Service Agencies
BH 411 Counseling Special Populations -OR-
BH 413 Special Issues Seminar
BH 414 Emotional and Behavioral Pathology

Child Welfare Concentration

SW 201 Introduction to Social Work
SW 202 Social Services to Children
SW 301 Social Welfare
CJ 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice
CJ 175 Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation
CJ 272 Probation and Parole -OR-
CJ 274 Corrections and Rehabilitation
BH 300 Case Management
BH 411 Counseling Special Populations -OR-
BH 413 Special Issues Seminar

Related Required Coursework (6 credits)

PSY 208 Human Development Across Life Span
PSY 215 Multicultural Issues in Psychology

Behavioral Health Minor/Certificate

Required Course Courses (15 credits)

BH 201 Foundations of Chemical Dependency
BH 202 Origins of Mental Illness
BH 204 Counseling Theories
BH 303 Counseling Techniques I
BH 330 Crisis Intervention

Required Elective Courses (6 credits)

BH ___ Elective from one area of concentration
BH ___ Elective from one area of concentration

Note: Advisors can tell you whether you can get credit for your life experience applied toward your degree.

*Students entering the program with 70+ credits or an associate degree must complete 30/31 Liberal Arts Core credits.

**A total of 123 credits, including 3 credits in a human diversity course, are required to complete a bachelor's degree. To adhere to Franciscan Values, community service hours are also required. In addition, at least 30 credits at the 300/400 level must be taken at Alvernia University.

LOCATIONS

Students can choose to take classes where and when it is most convenient. This program is offered on campus at our Reading, Philadelphia and Pottsville locations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alvernia University (Reading)
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